## HENRY COUNTY

### Honorable Charles W. Woodham

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### PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Promote Healthy Eating Habits.
- 2. Parent Project

### **Issues**

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

# **Health** - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

#### Child Obesity

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Promote parent education regarding early care and nutrition.
   CPC will support health department through publicity and volunteer support with health fairs
- Support high-risk screening. The CPC will support Health department with health fair publicity and volunteer support
- Utilize community resources to include involvement in planned activities, sporting events. The CPC will support sporting events and other activities that encourage youth to be physically active

#### Dental Health

Policy Council Action Steps:

- CPC will actively seek provider who will accept Medicaid to serve Henry County
- CPC will support educational and interactive programs in the schools to promote Dental Health

## **Safety** - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

# No weekend and evenings supervised activities for youth

Policy Council Action Steps:

- CPC will support Boys & Girls
   Club activities
- Promote and support community activities

#### **Boys & Girls Club**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- CPC will assist Boys & Girl's Club in identification of sites available for program
- CPC will support Boys & Girl's club in funding applications
- CPC will support Boys & Girl's Club with volunteers

#### Abuse of drugs and alcohol

Policy Council Action Steps:

- CPC will help implement Parent Project in Henry County
- Create a Drug Education prevention program
- CPC will support School Resource
   Officer Program
- Maintain and expand Local Leadership Academy

#### Education - Children

learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

### Need assistants for dropouts

Policy Council Action Steps:

- CPC will actively support the expansion of Regional Alliance 4 Children's Youth Enrichment Services expansion into Henry County
- CPC will work with Career
   Center and DHR jobs program
   to promote a Job Fair

### Alternative programs for job training

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Partner with Dothan Tech to explore services available for Henry County residents
- Partner with Wallace Community
   College to increase student
   enrollment from Henry County

## Early Care and Education - Children

(0-5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and

socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

### Children not prepared for school

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Work with local programs such as Mother Read & Father Read, Family Guidance Center, and other programs such as Bucks for Books and expand to include more ages.
- Promote awareness of health and safety issues for children birth to five years of age including Special Needs Children

# High rate of Grandparents with custody of their Grandchildren

Policy Council Action Steps:

Partner with the Family
 Guidance Center to bring Kid
 and Kin Program to Henry
 County

### **Economic Security**

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

#### **Poor Work Ethic**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Partner with Dothan Tech. to explore programs available for Henry County
- Seek Public services announcements that support and promote positive work ethic for local radio stations

## High rates of unemployment

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Partner with DHR Jobs Program, Career Center, and Dothan Tech to develop and promote a Job
- Explore Job training programs

## Parent Involvement and Skills - Parents and

guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

#### **Poor Parenting Skills**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek funding for one 16 week
   Program of Parent Project
- CPC will team up with Spectra
   Care and explore their programs

### Poor Parental Involvement

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek public service announcements for local radio stations
- Explore public education campaign to promote and support parental involvement

## Policy Recommendation

- 1. State agencies and departments should explore policy changes that promote healthy eating habits. Department of Education might evaluate the use of soda and snack machines in State funded schools.
- 2. State funding for statewide implantation of Parent Project.

HENRY COUNTY CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL 2005 NEEDS ASSESSSMENT